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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2001, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2001

The Senate met at 9 a.m., in executive session, and was called to order by the Honorable MICHAEL D. CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, this is the day You have made, we will seek to serve You in it; this is Your Chamber, we want to honor You in it; this is Your Senate, we desire to maintain the unity of Your Spirit and the bond of peace through it. Give us an acute sense of the power of the words we speak. Grant the Senators the ability to disagree without being disagreeable, to declare truth without depreciation of each other's character, to state convictions without demeaning disdain, to refrain from egregiousness in an effort to explain, and to judge merits without being judgmental.

Dear Father, this is a crucial day for the Senate. Remind the Senators on both sides of the aisle that what goes around does come around. Bless this Senate. Keep the Senators close to You and to each other so that when the vote this afternoon is over, we will not have lost the respect that galvanizes and the reconciliation that heals. We simply want to live this day knowing You will be the judge of what is said and how it is said. We commit ourselves to civility and care as men and women who are accountable to You. You are our Judge and Redeemer. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MICHAEL D. CRAPO led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL D. CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CRAPO thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

NOMINATION OF JOHN ASHCROFT TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will resume consideration of the Ashcroft nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John Ashcroft, of Missouri, to be Attorney General.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 9:15 shall be under the control of the majority party.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the time until 9:30 shall be under the control of the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, after reviewing his testimony before the Judiciary Committee and studying his long public record, I cannot support the nomination of John Ashcroft to be United States Attorney General.

This is not an easy decision for any of us. We have all served in this body with former Senator Ashcroft. I cannot say that I was a personal friend of his. We never associated socially or anything like that, but I did have dealings with Senator Ashcroft, as we all do around here, on matters of legislative importance.

Quite frankly, in my dealings with him, I always found him to be courteous to me and my staff. I found that we could work together even though we did not have the same views, perhaps, on certain pieces of legislation. I found

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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